



SOIL AND WATER *Resources*



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Pembroke Hill High School Wins 20th Annual Missouri Envirothon

An all-women team from Pembroke Hill High School won the 2017 Missouri Envirothon held on Wednesday, April 26 in Columbia, taking the top spot in the 18-team competition. Their advisors were Marjorie MacGregor and Kathy Ketchum.

The competition was held at the University of Missouri Bradford Research Center for a day of testing that combined the proven concepts of applied education with the excitement of a good competition.

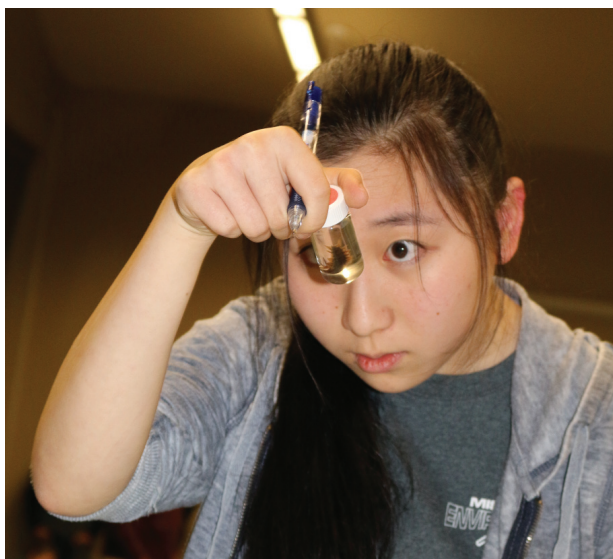
Students competed at five testing stations that included aquatic ecology, forestry, soils and land use, wildlife, and the 2017 current conservation topic of agriculture soil and water conservation stewardship. Test stations required the teams to answer a variety of both hands-on and written natural resource questions. Each team also had to give an oral presentation to a panel of three judges.



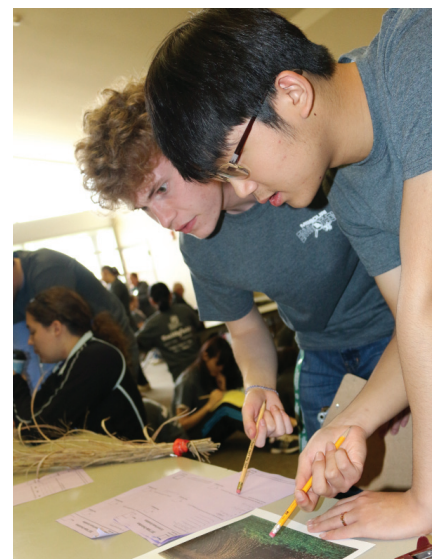
Pembroke Hill High School took 1st place in the 2017 Missouri Envirothon. Pictured left to right: Marjie MacGregor (advisor), Katrina Zhao, Pallavi Jonnalagadda, Gina Singh, Lily Jiang, and Mulan Jiang.



A student, from Parkway North A, is intent on identifying soil.



A Pembroke Hill student studies a sample at the aquatics station.



Missouri Academy students examine a current issue.

“This year our competition was more challenging than usual with it being held inside due to severe weather and the students proved that they were definitely ready for the task at hand,” said Judy Stinson, co-chair of the state event. “I applaud all the teams for their positive attitudes shown throughout the entire day. Missouri Envirothon students are extraordinary young people and I’m really proud of all of them.”



LaPlata students finding forestry facts.



Missouri Academy students use posters to present their oral presentation to judges at the envirothon.



Judges Kenny Lovelace, Colleen Meredith and J.R. Flores question students during the oral presentation competition.



Teresa Dunlap (left), St. Charles Soil and Water Conservation District, presents the Mary S. Burt Memorial Envirothon Scholarship Award to Stockton High School’s Cheston Stacy (right).

The other nine teams rounding out the top ten were Smith Cotton, Parkway North A, Webb City, McKinley, Sacred Heart, Parkway North B, Fort Osage, Stockton and California high schools. The winning team will advance on to the National Conservation Federation (NCF) Envirothon that will be held on July 23 through 29 at Mount St. Mary’s University in Emmitsburg, Maryland. The NCF-Envirothon is North America’s largest high school natural resource competition with more than 50 states and seven Canadian provinces competing at the national level.

Sponsors for this year’s event included local soil and water conservation districts, Missouri Department of Conservation, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Smithfield Foods,



Second place team from Smith-Cotton High School
Front left to right: Mackinzie Brinesbeach, Katelynn Montgomery and Sarah Adams. Back: Mona McCormack (advisor), Tyler Boatman, Dylan Miller and Jennifer Woolery (advisor).



Third place team from Parkway North A. Left to right: Jillian Day, Sarah Butterfield, Aerin Leigh Lammers, Aditya Gokhale and Claire Maher.

Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, University of Missouri Extension, Show-Me Chapter of the Soil and Water Conservation Society and the Missouri Association of Environmental Education.

The state event features the top three teams from each of Missouri's seven regional competitions held throughout the year. Contact your local soil and water conservation district office for information and dates about the regional events. More information about the Missouri Envirothon is available at moenvirothon.org. See more Envirothon photos at bit.ly/2oVcD4V

Peggy Lemons Receives Excellence in Natural Resources Education Award at Earth Day

The Missouri Department of Natural Resources is pleased to announce the recipient of the department's Excellence in Natural Resources Education Award. Peggy Lemons, District Specialist with the Cole County Soil and Water Conservation District in Jefferson City, is being recognized for her work with the Missouri Envirothon. Lemons is a founding member of the state Envirothon competition, which is a problem-solving, natural resource education program for high school students.

The Excellence in Natural Resources Education Award recognizes people who connect Missouri youth to our natural resources through formal or informal education. Lemons received a plaque during the Earth Day celebration April 21 on the south lawn of the Capitol in Jefferson City.

Lemons spearheaded the efforts to establish the by-laws and a board of directors for the state program. She helped plan and coordinate 20 annual Envirothons, was elected to the executive committee of the national Envirothon and served as treasurer. She served as co-chair for the 2005 national Envirothon and chaired the 2015 national NCF-Envirothon.



Peggy Lemons received the Excellence in Natural Resources Educator Award from the Missouri Department of Natural Resources' Andrea Balkenbush, Chief of Outreach and Education.

She has raised funds, expanded training for teachers and provided opportunities for more students to compete by helping to create seven regional districts in Missouri. The state contest has grown from 10 teams in 1998 to more than 50 teams today. Lemons is also the executive director of the Missouri Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

She believes in the potential of young people, commitment to a better environment and promoting learning, honesty and integrity. "I have great partners that helped us have a great state program and the planning committee that helped put on this competition is fantastic," said Lemons.

Lemons is the second person to receive the Excellence in Natural Resources Education Award. The first award was given in 2016 and recognized Traci Murray, a science teacher at Osage County R-1, Chamois, for her work with students during the Earth Day celebration. Murray and her students assisted during the event from 2010 to 2016.

The Soil and Water Conservation Program provided a search-a-word and maze game for the students attending Earth Day this year. The games were laminated on large foam boards and put on easels so students could use white board markers to find the answers. The program also supplied activity books for students and teachers to take back to their classrooms for later use.

Dates to Remember

June 3 - Pesticide Roundup at University of Missouri Extension Center at 260 Brown Road in St. Peters. on.mo.gov/1WxgYoC

June 24 - Pesticide Roundup at DeWitt Auction Company, 220 DeWitt Dr. in Sikeston. on.mo.gov/1WxgYoC

July 15 - Pesticide Roundup at Litton Agri-Science Learning Center at 10780 Liv 235 off Highway 190 in Chillicothe.



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